

BRIEF SKETCH
of
W. M. S. DOINGS
in
JAPAN

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OF THE
WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
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1900

1919

THE

Woman's Missionary Society

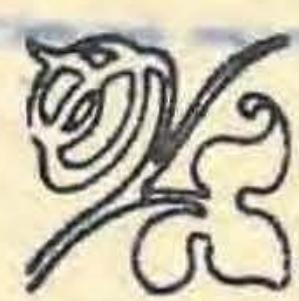
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RISE AND PROGRESS

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FOREWORD.

To bring in concise and convenient form the information it contains, to the present generation and to provide and preserve an authentic record for reference by the future historian of the missionary operations of our Church, is the purpose of this modest little sketch.

Though but a bare outline of the activities and achievements of the Woman's Missionary Society, through her faithful and efficient representatives, in Japan, this booklet will prove of great value to all who seek an intelligent knowledge of the missionary enterprises of the Church in the Sunrise Kingdom, and of the Woman's Society in particular. Of the period covered, there is no missing link in the record here given.

E. M. S.

“Prayer and pains through
faith in Jesus Christ will accom-
plish anything.”

—*John Eliot.*

1900

A BROADER FIELD

1919

Enlarge the place of thy tent and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords and strengthen thy stakes.—Isaiah 54: 2.

FIRST STEPS.

While the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association had become numerically strong, and the annual moneys raised, steadily increased, the fact that they had no direct or specific work, nor their own representatives in the foreign mission field, came home to the leaders with great force. Application for work in the mission field, by young women who felt called to this special service, had been presented to the Parent Board for several years in succession without success, because the Evangelical Association had no plans for work for single missionary ladies in its program.

At the Quadrennial of the Woman's Missionary Society, held at Howell, Michigan, in August, 1899, the following Resolution was adopted:

“Whereas, According to information received from the Rev. F. W. Voegelein, our honored missionary in Japan, that there is great opportunity for promoting the cause of missions in their country, by doing certain kinds of benevolent work among the very poor, and

“Whereas, Bro. Voegelein has called our attention to the great need of this phase of work, and

of the possibility of the good to be accomplished thereby, and

“*Whereas*, The work can be taken up and carried forward with comparatively little expense, therefore

“*Resolved*, That we request the honorable Board of Missions that a Committee, consisting of the Executive Board of the Woman’s Missionary Society and such members as the Parent Society may appoint, be empowered to take the necessary steps to establish such a work, provided that the Board of Missions sees fit to recognize the suggestion made by the Rev. F. W. Voegelein.”

APPOINTMENT OF TWO MISSIONARIES.

In accordance with the foregoing Resolution, the Board of Missions took the following action:

“In conformity with the desire of the Woman’s Missionary Society to take more active part in our missionary and charitable work in Japan, be it

“*Resolved*, That for this purpose the sisters Susan M. Bauernfeind of Nerstrand, Minnesota, and Anna M. Kammerer of Superior, Nebraska, be sent to Japan to work there under the direction of our missionaries, provided that their state of health proves satisfactory,—that they agree to the conditions laid down by the Board, and that the Woman’s Missionary Society bear their expenses by special contribution.”

Upon this the Woman’s Missionary Society adopted the following Resolution:

“Resolved, That we cheerfully accept the charge of supporting the two lady missionaries as our representatives in the field, and that we regard it as a privilege to do so.”

SPECIAL PREPARATION.

Since the Board had decided that the two young women should not go to Japan until in the autumn of 1900, the Executive Committee of the Woman's Missionary Society asked the newly appointed lady missionaries to travel through some parts of the Church so as to become better acquainted with the home constituents before going abroad. Accordingly appointments were made for them in different conferences and they were enthusiastically received by the majority of the societies, and the necessary funds for the new undertaking were forthcoming. The conferences thus visited were,—Ohio, Atlantic, Pennsylvania, Erie, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska and Kansas. Only a very small part of each conference could be touched because of lack of time, but that this experience was a very helpful and comforting one to the two young women in their future work is well known. It likewise helped the home societies in praying for and supporting this new undertaking.

GETTING STARTED.

On September 22nd, 1900, the first representatives of the Woman's Missionary Society sailed from San Francisco, and landed in Yokohama on

the 10th of October. That their prayers and desires were fulfilled was cause enough for great joy, and they were looking forward with big hopes for the work in which they should be engaged. The fact that there was no definite work arranged for them left them practically free to undertake as the Lord opened doors for service. In accordance with suggestions from Bro. Voeglein the Woman's Missionary Society ordered that the lady missionaries live in a Japanese house among the natives, so as to become well acquainted with both language and customs of the people. Consequently a house, in pure Japanese style, was rented in Asakusa, Tokyo, and the ladies moved into it upon their arrival in Japan.

FIRST HOME.

The part of the city in which the first lady missionaries found a home is perhaps the most heathenish and degraded in all of Tokyo. It was a good thing that they were ignorant of the reputation the neighborhood had or they should certainly not have spent any peaceful nights in their little Japanese house. It is true, the place was fenced and everything seemed secure, but it is also true that they had disturbances at night, and only their brave spirit and utter trust in God kept them from fear and anxiety. The following from a letter written by Miss Kammerer, soon after they had settled in their new home, is worthy of our notice: "We are finally really settled in our house with

paper doors and windows, and have made it appear quite homelike with our American furniture. We are happy in the work, learning to speak Japanese, and speaking through our interpreter. . . . It is true, we miss friends and home and Christian influences, but we are glad for an opportunity of serving the Master here. We live about four miles from our other missionaries, in a part of Tokyo where there are no other workers. Oh, how much we see to be done!"

FIRST WORK.

Since there was no regular work arranged and the missionaries were really unable to do much because of not knowing the language, each was assigned to one of the Tokyo churches, Miss Kammerer was asked to attend the Ushigome congregation while Miss Bauernfeind joined the Shitaya church. The former church was a long distance from the home, and in those days the electric car was unknown in Tokyo, so that there was no way to cover the long distance except by Jinrikisha. The Shitaya church was within easy walking distance. Then there was a "Kogisho" preaching place in the neighborhood where services were held on Thursday evenings, and both missionaries attended regularly and frequently spoke to the gathering through the interpreter. In this way they learned the customs of the people when at services in a Japanese house and this knowledge came them to good stead in future years.

DISAPPOINTED.

The first real sorrow and disappointment that came to the hearts of the missionaries was when they were told, after only three weeks' occupation of their home, to vacate because they did not suit the landlord. He had never had anything to do with foreigners; knew nothing about furniture, and could not endure seeing his house damaged, as he thought, by the furniture of these foreign women. Since it was impossible to find any other home at once, he was persuaded, by giving him extra high rent, to allow the ladies to live in his house until they could find another suitable place. Hence they remained in their first little home only three months.

SECOND HOME.

Since no other house could be found in the part of the city where they were living they began to search in other parts, and succeeded in finding a small Japanese house in a very much better part of the city and the owner being a retired preacher of our Church, the missionaries knew they would be able to stay unmolested so long as they desired to remain there.

Accordingly in January, 1901, the two missionaries packed their goods, and moved into their "Second" home where they remained for nearly two years, and were able to pursue the study of the language and gradually prepare for what was

expected of them later. The house was very small, located on the street line and only a board fence protected the dwellers from passers-by. The most unpleasant feature of the place was a large open sewer right in front of the house, and as we look back to those days of heat and much rain we realize that nothing but the Providence of God kept our missionaries from health impairment.

SPECIAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL WORK.

Although not yet prepared to do much work, the missionaries were not slow to realize the need of a Sunday-school in the immediate neighborhood so as to teach the numberless children that seemed to fill every street; hence the first Sunday-school, not connected with any regular preaching place, was begun in a little house off the right of the missionaries' home. It was while living at this place, that both missionaries tackled the Japanese language with a determination that would make one or the other yield. In those days, there were no schools for the study of the language but a private lady teacher was employed who, while well educated, was not an instructor, and would explain and teach only as the pupil asked questions.

BIBLE CLASS WORK.

A request to teach the Bible in English to young men, who would gather in our Ushigome and Shitaya churches, was accepted by both missionaries and the Ushigome church being situated near

the Waseda University, Miss Kammerer soon had a very large number of University students attending her Bible class. A large number of students also lived in the neighborhood of the missionaries, and request for a German Bible class was also accepted and the class met in the home of a German Japanese teacher. In this way the Gospel was carefully and prayerfully taught to young men who would in time be asked to take a stand for Jesus Christ.

A HOMEY HOME.

Although the missionaries were quite happy in their little home there were many inconveniences, and the question of health began to cause some concern; hence Bro. Voegelein, realizing the need of better quarters in order to conserve the health and strength of the lady missionaries, as well as to provide for a permanent center from which the workers could reach out into different directions, presented the need of an American built home to the Board of Missions in the autumn of 1901. The Board adopted the following Resolution at the suggestion of Bro. Voegelein:

Resolved, That we authorize the Woman's Missionary Society and the Missionary Committee in Japan to lease sufficient ground to serve the purpose of the work of the sisters Bauernfeind and Kammerer, and thereupon to erect a dwelling and chapel for said sisters and their work, provided that the Woman's Missionary Society furnish the

funds, not to exceed \$3000.00 and the treasurer of the Missionary Society shall advance the necessary funds until the money is raised through the Woman's Missionary Society by special gifts."

Upon this the Missionary Committee in Japan began to search for a suitable lot, and succeeded in leasing two lots 48 x 150 feet in Koishikawa, Tokyo. At that time this part of the city was unsettled, and there were very few houses to be found anywhere. A large temple ground with its cemetery was found opposite the lots secured. These cemetery grounds were regular woods where the pheasant had its home and gave warning whenever an earthquake threatened. These birds were so sensitive that they would cry out, night or day, long before human beings detected the tremor of the earth. To the right and left of the rented lots there were large unoccupied tracts of land, owned by a wealthy man living in the neighborhood, and were not for sale. The two lots rented were occupied, there being a large Japanese house and all kinds of beautiful shrubbery on them; but the order was to erect a foreign built house, hence plans and specifications were drawn up for a house and a little chapel. These plans and specifications were sent home to the Board for approval, and in due time the two buildings were erected at a cost of about \$2500.00. The foreign house was erected on the square with eight rooms fourteen by eleven feet each. There was no plastering but all the

walls were boarded as it was thought safest on account of the earthquakes. The little chapel consisted of two rooms of 15x15 feet each, divided by sliding doors which could be removed, thus throwing the two rooms into one, when necessary. In November, 1902, our missionaries moved into the new home, and from that day to this the house has served to shelter many of our workers who have gone to Japan as our representatives.

UNEXPECTED JOY.

While the location of the lot was good, it was soon learned that there was not a native Christian in the community, nor any Christian work being done in the immediate neighborhood. Besides, a certain rich neighbor, who was a strong Buddhist, said that he had made up his mind that before many years he would purchase the lots the foreigners had rented, and would make it necessary for them to move elsewhere. It was such remarks as these, that led our missionaries to pray much that God might have His way about their residence and the work in which they were to engage. These prayers were answered, and quite unexpectedly the owner of the lots offered them to the Mission for sale at a very reasonable figure. Bro. Voeglein was not slow to take advantage of the offer, and soon the property belonged to the Woman's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association, it being the first ground purchased and held by them

in any foreign land, and this step caused great joy and gratitude on the part of the missionaries who were permitted to occupy it as representatives of the Woman's Missionary Society.

WORK TAKING FORM.

Sometime, before moving into the new home, a missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Mission, Miss Spencer, called upon the two lady missionaries and talked freely about definite work, saying, among other things, that the training of native young women for Christian work was perhaps the most necessary, and the most successful work of the foreign missionary. At about the same time a young woman who lived in Izu, a member of our church in Shimoda, and one who had always tried to help in Sunday-school work as much as possible, asked Bro. Voegelein if she could not come to Tokyo and live with the two lady missionaries for the purpose of studying the Bible and preparing herself for definite Christian work. These suggestions, as well as the observation of the missionaries in their evangelistic work, led them to believe that God was opening the way for them to take a part in training native women for this work, but just how it was to be done, was unknown.

After settling in their new home they continued to work in the two churches assigned them upon arrival in Japan, and not without good results. Large numbers of both men and women were brought into these churches. It is to be noticed

that when these two young women first began their work in the two churches there were scarcely ever any native women at the meetings, but men only; but within a few years, the pastors rejoiced because excellent meetings for women had been organized and a large number of the women found it possible to attend Sunday services. In visiting the homes of members and non-members, the missionaries gained a knowledge of the home-life of the Japanese, which they could never have gained in any other way, and they realized anew that if the best work was to be done in the homes of the people it would have to be done by the Japanese woman herself.

WAYSIDE SEED SOWING.

As is always the case in city churches, people were constantly moving away and new members were brought into the church. One member of the Shitaya church moved to the suburb, Mukojima. The pastor in visiting him became acquainted with conditions in the suburb, and met a number of the employees in the Kanegafuchi Spinning Mill, through whom he was introduced to the manager, Mr. Fuji, who at once was anxious to have religious meetings started in the Mill for the large number of female employees. It was this incident that brought Miss Bauernfeind in contact with the Spinning Mill, and when final arrangements were made for a meeting, not less than nine hundred girls and women attended, by far the majority hearing the Gospel Story for the first time. From

that day to this, the work in the Mill has been most successful; a large number have become Christians, and a permanent work has been established through this small beginning, many years ago.

Another phase of work was that of going into the rural districts to bring Jesus to the people living in places where no Christian work was being done. Usually a preaching place was found, but the women had been almost untouched with the Gospel; hence special efforts were made to visit them in their homes, and holding meetings for women only in the home of some woman whose husband was perhaps a member of the church. The women in the country are still more reserved than those living in the city, and it is with great difficulty that one can gain entrance into the home, but when once opened, not only is the worker welcomed, but the Bible truths are gladly received. Thus, for three years, the two missionaries worked and waited while they used every opportunity to sow beside all waters, and from various experiences, after much prayer, believed that it was God's will for them to undertake the training of native women and girls to do the work in the homes of the natives.

BIBLE SCHOOL ESTABLISHED.

In the year 1903 a request from the Missionary Committee in Japan was sent to the Woman's Missionary Society Board asking permission to open

a Training School for Bible Women. At the Quadrennial Convention of 1903, held at Tiffin, Ohio, it was decided to grant the request of the missionaries to establish a Bible Woman's Training School in Japan, and that Miss Bauernfeind be appointed principal of the school. As is so frequently the case, no one could ever have imagined what the actual outcome of such a move would be, but the fourteen years of work, the large numbers of women and students touched directly during that time with the life-giving Word, and a still larger number indirectly, the homes that have been helped, the souls that have been brought from despair into the blessed hope of eternal life; . . . these, and many other blessings, too numerous to mention, that have gone forth from the Bible school during these years, prove beyond a doubt that the establishing of the Bible school was in accordance with His plan and will.

The following is taken from an article written by the principal, Miss Bauernfeind: "April 6th, 1904, was a 'Red Letter Day' for the work of the Woman's Missionary Society in Japan. On that day, after much prayer and careful consideration the Bible Woman's Training School was launched. There was no ground; there was no building; there were no native teachers. The missionaries themselves did not have an adequate knowledge of the Japanese language, but they realized the need of a Bible school in which to train native women to do evangelistic work among their own sex, hence

rejoiced greatly when the school was begun. A two-room frame building, erected for the purpose of Sunday-school work, served for four full years; one room in an old Japanese house, in which the janitor was installed, answered for dormitory purposes for several years. Six young women enrolled the first day. My personal teacher and interpreter, a devoted Christian young woman, helped us work out the course of study and formulate rules and regulations for the school." The course of study embodied the whole of the Bible, with Church history and Christian evidences, as well as a working knowledge of music, both vocal and instrumental. Since it was difficult to get non-Christian parents to pay the expenses for a daughter engaged in preparation for Christian work, the students were received into the school upon a contract something like the following: Three years of training would be given them freely, and after graduation, three years of work would be required from them. To this contract both Christian and non-Christian parents subscribed their names. This seemed a satisfactory way to give the Christian training to many who would otherwise have been deprived from gaining biblical knowledge, and a training which would remain with them throughout their lives. From the very beginning, the aim of the school was, to impart, not only biblical knowledge, but also to train the women and girls for practical evangelistic work; for this reason Sunday-schools were opened, and

meetings for women organized at which the students could take their turn in speaking, as a part of their preparation for future service. House-to-house visitation was tried but found almost impossible, as homes, not familiar with Christianity did not care to have teachers approach them; but the homes of some of the Sunday-school scholars welcomed the workers, while others refused to let their children return to Sunday-school after the teacher had called, so the work was found to be most difficult.

While some of the students helped the Sunday-schools of some of our city congregations, their real practical work was in and about the community where schools were located. The Koishikawa Sunday-school, which had been carried on for several years, was prosperous and afforded an excellent place for work. Gradually the homes of the children were visited and thus the parents became interested in Christianity.

THE PERSONAL TOUCH.

Although the number of students was small, a Young Woman's Christian Association was organized so as to give the girls an opportunity to lead meetings, and make addresses in public gatherings. To this meeting a public invitation was extended, and several young women from the neighborhood, who had come to the missionaries for instruction in English, became greatly interested. One of these, the only daughter of a very wealthy man,

having finished one of the most conservative schools for women in Japan, was greatly touched, and not being able to hear any sermons, begged permission to attend the meetings in Shitaya church. It was with reluctance that the missionary took her along to this church because of its location, and because the class of people there were so very different from those with whom the young woman had hitherto mingled. She, however, insisted on going, and so real was her desire for salvation that she became one of the many who were blessedly saved during a series of special meetings in that little church. Although this was many years ago, the young woman has always been faithful to God and loyal to the church and is today a very successful worker in the Master's vineyard.

Among the different young women who came for instruction in English, was the younger daughter of the rich neighbor who had declared that he would not allow our missionaries to continue work in his neighborhood. The missionaries were more than surprised to have this man's daughter ask for lessons in English. She was then attending High school, and had been studying General History in which she learned of the persecution of the Christians. She became anxious to learn more about these people, called Christians, but her father, being a strong Buddhist, would not give consent to call on the missionaries, except for instruction in English. She did review some of her English for her daily school work, but she was far more inter-

ested in the study of Christianity than in her language lessons. Consequently the Bible soon became the text book in English, and a more devoted student was never found. The following is her own story: "On the 30th of September, 1906, at 8:30 in the evening I was born again and truly began a new life. How I came to be saved, I shall briefly state to the honor and glory of God. "For all flesh is as grass, and the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withereth and the flower thereof falleth away." 1 Peter 1: 24. On my way to and from High school I passed through a street composed of the very poorest class of people, and I was greatly impressed by the condition of these people, and could not but wonder why God permits some people to live in such poverty and some in great wealth. This question gave me a great deal of concern, and I was deeply moved with pity for those poor people. Another question arose in my mind at about the same time: Why did I come into the world? Was I born for this life only? Are the pleasures of this world all I am to enjoy? Surely that could not be so; for I am not like unto a flower that fadeth away, then, Why was I born? Perhaps I am to become a strong, pure, good, moral woman, but if this is so, then I can never attain to it in my own strength; for had I not tried to live right again and again just one day at a time, and had I not always failed? Truly, there is none that doeth right, no, not one. It seemed to me that I was like the waves of the sea, resolving to do good, but only

doing the evil. These thoughts occurred to me with much force in January of last year, just as the plum blossoms were coming out and I was impressed with their purity and sweetness. I should say, however, that before any of these thoughts entered my mind I had been attending the meetings for young women near my home, and had heard a number of good talks on Christianity, the love of God, and others; but so blinded was I with sin, and Satan had so much power over me, that I could not understand the meaning of all that I had heard.

One day I was especially heavy-hearted, sick of sin and discouraged because I did not seem to get any better no matter how hard I tried, and so I decided to go over to the Bible school and ask one of the students there to help me. One other thought troubled me: This world seemed so cold and cruel, no love, no sympathy, and I thought I might be able to get some by applying to one of the girls in the Bible school, but as it happened she was out. Greatly disappointed I entered the school building and stood there for a few seconds when my eyes lighted upon a book entitled "Daily Strength." I picked it up and began to read, and for the first time the thought of God as a Father, of God as *My Father* entered my poor heart, and all my questions were solved. With great joy I returned home, went to a shop and bought a copy of that book, and daily read that and my Bible, and those two books became my intimate companions. Before this I could not pray, but now that I understood that

God was my Father it was an easy thing to pray and I was greatly comforted. I would not, however, attribute my salvation to these means alone, but especially to the dear teacher who took such a personal interest in me and led me up to the point of seeing myself, and understanding my sinful condition, and I thank God for having brought me to Himself by various means. I was now ready for baptism. What was the difference? How was I changed? I took the cross upon me and conquered sin, longed for the right and the power to help others; to live well and to glorify God. My parents are strong Buddhists, and I feared they might object to my being baptized, but daily prayer to God for their consent, gave me the ^gvictory."

Can anyone understand the joy and the gratitude of the missionaries upon the conversion of this young woman whose father had declared he would not be satisfied until he had made these foreigners move into other quarters? Was it not wonderful to have his own daughter be the first to be converted, baptized and received into the church in Koishikawa of which she is still a member? The days of miracles are not yet past!

BIBLE SCHOOL DORMITORY PROVIDED.

While the old Japanese house which stood on the premises was large enough to accomodate the janitor and his family and six students, it was evident that if other young women would enter the school, additional housing facilities would be a ne-

cessity; hence, in the Spring of 1905 a small dormitory was erected back of the building used for school purposes. This dormitory was entirely Japanese style with four rooms up-stairs and three down-stairs,—kitchen and closet room for the Japanese bedding. The cost of this building was a little over five hundred (500.00) dollars, and would accomodate twelve students conveniently, and if necessary, eighteen.

A CHANGE.

For six years, the two missionaries worked faithfully and prayerfully, and it was evident that God was blessing their efforts so that the need of additional workers was greatly felt. In June, 1906, Miss Kammerer sailed for the United States. We quote the following from the *Missionary Messenger*: “Miss Kammerer sails for the United States from Yokohama, Japan, on the 25th of June. She has been in Japan six years and has labored untiringly with good success. We regret to lose her from our work in Japan, but it is only one of the natural consequences which come in life. Miss Kammerer comes to this country to recuperate and to see friends once more before she takes up the work in China to which she has been chosen to go, as the bride of the Rev. Clarence E. Ranck.”

RECRUITS. —

In August, of the same year, Miss Elmina Ranck, of Naperville, Ill., and Miss Edna L. Erff.

meyer, of Holton, Kansas, sailed for Japan to be associated with the work in the Bible School. Miss Bauernfeind, who had been alone from the time Miss Kammerer sailed for the United States, until the arrival of these two young women, rejoiced greatly over the Providence of God sending two missionaries to help in the work which was making rapid strides. Shortly after their arrival, Miss Ranck wrote the following: "For five days I have been passing through an experience of my childhood, that is, I have carried a primer for that length of time, to and from school, but I have made this advance upon the childhood experience in that I study grammar and use a dictionary at the same time. On the first Saturday afternoon, after the opening of the Bible Woman's Training school, the girls, twelve in number, gave a reception to welcome their new teachers. Accordingly, soon after the appointed hour, Miss Bauernfeind, Miss Erffmeyer and myself betook ourselves to our girls' dormitory which stands adjacent to our dwelling.

This social gathering was a great event in the school life of our girls and they were very happy in preparing for it. . . . When we reached the veranda, we removed our shoes, according to Japanese custom, and were then conducted upstairs to a large room made by removing the sliding paper partitions which separate three adjoining rooms. There, most of the girls were sitting on the floor in a semi-circle, and when we entered, they gracefully bowed to us. Although two chairs had been

provided for us who are not accustomed to sitting on the floor they were used only a short time near the close of the event, and that means that we also sat on the floor in Japanese fashion, which is to kneel and then sit on one's limbs which are extended straight backward. The exercises were opened with song, followed by prayer, after which the one who served as hostess gave a short address of welcome. After another song, several of the girls disappeared and in a few moments reappeared and placed before each guest, and their own number, a large bowl of a Japanese delicacy which consisted of five principal ingredients. The bulk of the dish was rice over which was laid a piece of pressed fish, slices of lotus root, cooked ginger root, and a kind of grass. The ginger being scarlet, the grass green, the lotus root blueish white, and the fish white, the foregoing ingredients were so arranged that the dish appeared very attractive. I failed to mention that chop-sticks accompanied this dish. To the great amusement of our entertainers, we who were unaccustomed to the use of chopsticks, used them sufficiently well to take as much of this dainty (?) dish as we thought best. In addition to this luxury, the native pear which you would call a russet apple, cooked chestnuts, beans cooked in the pods with the pods on the stem, cookies made of rice flour, and the proverbial cup of tea were served. After we had spent an hour pleasantly with our girls, we made our bows and departed."

A NEW CONGREGATION.

Although prayer-meetings, Bible classes, and Sunday School work had been carried on from the beginning, it was not until September, 1906, that regular preaching services on Sunday evenings were begun in the Bible school building, and the attendance was far beyond all expectation. Miss Erffmeyer says the following concerning these services: "Great joy filled the heart of every Christian last Sunday evening, when for the third time since September 30th, we were able to receive souls into the church. As is known to some of the readers, regular preaching services were opened in our school building last September, and most interesting services have been held every Sunday evening. Our society now numbers thirteen, nearly all of whom are either the direct or indirect result of the work of the school. They tell us that three or four years ago this was a very lonely place, but lately houses have been built all about us, so that we will soon be in the midst of the city. This, however, is no objection because to work with people one must come in contact with them, and such opportunities are necessary for the best training of the workers in the school. Another feature in connection with this work is the Inquiry meeting conducted every Sunday by Miss Bauernfeind. At these meetings both Christians and non-christians attend; for the new convert in Japan is but a babe in Christ and needs careful attention.

In the winter season, a young man was baptized; he has become a very enthusiastic worker. He conceived the idea that it might be well to have a bulletin placed at the entrance which leads to our little building. Each Saturday he writes upon the board the time of the Inquiry meeting, of the English Bible class, and also of the evening services, giving the name of the speaker and his subject. He is never happier than when every chair in the building is occupied, because he feels that he too has had a part in the work.

Another way in which we advertise the meeting is by means of a large Japanese lantern, on which one finds the words, "Christian services," in large Chinese characters."

FIRST GRADUATES.

Great encouragement came to the workers of the Bible school on March 26th, 1907, when the first class of five young women graduated. Since there is a great deal of formality in all public meetings of a school, the graduating exercises became a great strain upon the principal and teachers. Even the handing out of the diploma must be done according to a certain form, and has to be learned before one is able to do it properly. For this reason the principal had attended different graduating exercises at other schools, but found it a great task to comply with the required form.

Although five young women graduated and there seemed a loneliness because of their absence,

God graciously sent a class of eight or nine young women so that the total number of students, beginning with April, 1907, was fourteen.

PULLING STAKES.

With the increase of the number of students the little building in which the classes had met for the past three years became altogether inadequate and it was evident that larger quarters must be secured if the work was to be continued. Upon consultation, a request for a new building was sent to the Woman's Missionary Society Board. The following is taken from an editorial of the Missionary Messenger: "The plans for the enlarging of the school building in Tokyo, Japan, have been approved by the Executive Committee of the Parent Missionary Society, and work will be begun just as soon as possible. This enlarging process will require funds, so the dear sisters may begin to plan for the giving of their share towards the \$2,500 required. It is gratifying that in so short a time our original quarters have become too small, and instead of being necessitated to put up a sign "Rooms to let" we are giving the sign that more room is needed. The blessing of God has been wonderfully manifested in this undertaking, and streams of blessing are flowing from the institution."

ADDITIONAL HELP.

Not only was it necessary to enlarge the building, but to increase the teaching force also became

an imperative need; especially on account of the large opportunities for actual Evangelistic work to be done by teachers and students of the school, and Miss Bauernfeind's furlough being overdue the Woman's Missionary Society asked for the fifth young woman to enter the work in Japan, and Miss Cora E. Haller, of Erie, Pa., responded to the call. The following is from the Missionary Messenger concerning the appointment of Miss Haller: "A life counts for more in Japan than here, so we believe or we would never have asked our young girls to be our representatives in the 'Sunrise Kingdom.' On October 7th (1908) Miss Cora Haller of Erie, Pa., sailed from Vancouver for Japan, and while we are enjoying these beautiful October days, with their golden sunshine and fresh breezes, with the changes in the foliage of the trees upon which to feast our eyes, she is being tossed about on the gigantic waves of the Pacific and since her course was the northern one, we may imagine her wrapped in a steamer blanket with naught but sea and sky to gaze upon. May her voyage be a happy one! Miss Haller is the daughter of Evangelical parents, is a graduate of Vassar College, and for some years has been a teacher in the High school of her home city. She is well qualified for the work to which she has been assigned, that of teaching in the Bible Woman's Training School in Japan.

At the farewell meetings held in her honor at Cleveland, Ohio, and at Erie, Pa., lasting impressions were made upon the young faces turned to-

ward the platform as morning glories to the sun. Miss Haller's cheering words and happy face made one feel that it was an exalted privilege to "go" and not a cross. Lord bless our missionaries and make them a blessing!"

THE NEW BUILDING.

During the summer vacation of 1908 the old school building, which long ago had become too small, was torn down and moved into the country where it was re-erected to serve as a Chapel. In place of this, a larger building was erected at a cost of \$2,400.00. Since there was no church building on the property, the school chapel was planned for the first floor and the recitation rooms on the second. The lot being long and narrow the building had to be erected according to the space allotted. Three good-sized class rooms, and an office are found in the second story. In Japan the sun means a great deal, hence most buildings are erected facing the south, and the new school building has a south front which is greatly appreciated during the chilly winter days, and saves much fuel. The following description of the building, written by Miss Ranck is very definite, hence herewith quoted:

"We now have a two story building. The first story consists of a Chapel, at the rear of which is a hall extending across the building. From this a stairway ascends to the second floor on which there are three large recitation rooms, an office for the principal of the school, a small library and two

music rooms. Access to these rooms is furnished by a hall which extends from one end of the building to the other. Both floors are well lighted and the chapel and two recitation rooms are heated by soft coal stoves. As the former building had no chimney, only wood could be used for heating it. The present recitation rooms being upstairs and having south exposure are heated much more quickly and with less fuel than the former ones. The former building stood so close to the ground that the atmosphere was much damper than it is now, while the new one stands on a foundation of brick and stone two feet high. Under part of the building there is a basement for the storage of fuel. The Japanese never wear the foot wear of the street when they enter buildings so that public places must provide boxes for the reception of their shoes and provide them with others when they enter a building. When many children enter they usually enter barefooted or wearing only their tabi, which are low socks made by sewing together pieces of cloth which fit the foot closely.

Although we think that our hall is large and the shoe boxes ample, yet when two of the Sunday schools connected with this place met in joint Christmas entertainment, we found that we did not have room enough for all the shoes on such an occasion.

The chapel is furnished with twenty plain, but substantial, hard wood pews, each of which will comfortably seat five persons, a pulpit desk which

was donated, two chairs and a table purchased by the congregation, and an organ and stove. The building is lighted with electricity, which is another great improvement over the dim oil lamps which were used before, as well as lessening the danger from fire."

COUNTRY WORK.

Besides the regular work in the Bible school the missionaries were always on the lookout for opportunities to do direct Evangelistic work either in Tokyo or in the country stations near by. The following from an article written by Miss Cora Haller in 1909, gives an insight into the character of the country work the missionaries did at that time: "It is scarcely four months since I came to Japan and probably I should not attempt to write a letter for the Missionary Messenger yet, had it not happened that I already have had the pleasure of making my first trip into the country. First of all I should say that my regular work now is to attend a Japanese language school every morning of the school week, teach one or two classes in our Bible Training school in the afternoon, teach an English Bible class in our Yotsuya church on Sunday morning, before the church service, conduct a Woman's meeting in the same church every alternate Thursday afternoon, and learn all the Japanese I can whenever I can and however I can. The trip to the country came as an unexpected change, and I was indeed glad for the opportunity of leaving the

semi-foreign atmosphere of Tokyo for a short time to get a taste of more purely Japanese life. It was Miss Bauernfeind's last visit to the town of Togane, about forty-five miles distant, where one of the graduates of last year's class is working as Bible woman.

We left the city at twelve on Friday, and after a very pleasant ride by train through picturesque rural Japan, with its small rice fields, its thatched-roofed houses, groves of pine and bamboo, with an occasional glimpse of the sea between the hills, we, Miss Bauernfeind, Miss Suzuki, my interpreter, and I, arrived at the little station of Togane about a quarter to three. Here we were most cordially received by the genial pastor, the happy little Bible woman, and a number of friends. One of the latter was a young man, who had been in America for a while, and who had arranged to have the afternoon meeting in the sewing school, of which he is head. After having been escorted by the pastor to the Japanese inn where Miss Bauernfeind and I were to stay for the night, and after the necessary delay caused by the serving of the conventional tea, we arrived at the meeting about a quarter after three. Here, in the upper room of the sewing school, which had formerly been a private High school for girls, we found assembled about forty or fifty women and girls. Most of them were young women, and some, we were told, had walked a number of miles from the surrounding villages. After the singing of a few hymns, Miss Bauernfeind gave a Bible talk in Japanese, during which the atten-

tion of the young hearers, seated in true Japanese style on the matting-covered floor, was excellent. As those in charge had arranged to have a photograph taken on this final visit of their beloved friend and guide, we had a recess between this first part of the meeting and the second. Having a picture taken in Japan is much the same as it is in America. There is the preliminary excitement of getting everybody in the proper place and everybody to look "Pleasant" and in the right direction, then the final words from the photographer to this or that one who has got out of position, a moment of suspense, a click, and it is done! After two trials we returned to the upper room and resumed the meeting. As it was getting late and rather dark, my part of the meeting was very short. It was a comfort to know that the young lady who was interpreting for me would not only translate my words, but would skillfully adapt them to the audience.

As Miss Suzuki, my interpreter, was staying with relatives in the town, Miss Bauernfeind and I went on to our room in the hotel, accompanied by the little Bible woman, who in many ways reminded me of some of our dear German deaconesses in Berlin. She came to have a talk with her former teacher during the time between meetings, and although I could not understand much of what was said, her face and manner told me much. She seemed hungry for an opportunity to talk over her work and receive advice and counsel from the one she loved and trusted so much.

When the time came for eating our supper, I discovered the real convenience of a Japanese hotel. Because we were foreigners, and there were few other guests in the house, the proprietor had given us the two best rooms, which could be made into one by opening the sliding doors. Here we could receive our guests as we sat on the floor before our "hibachi" fire-boxes, and when our supper was prepared, it was served to us in our room upon a small table with short legs. And do not think that it is a hardship for us to live on Japanese food, at least for a short time. Miss Bauernfeind enjoys it immensely, and to me it is a real treat.

The pastor came to ask whether we would stay over Saturday forenoon to address the new Girls' High school of the town. Considering this a real opportunity, we consented to do so, but later the pastor found out that because no arrangements had been made with the principal, for that particular time, it would not be convenient. He assured Miss Bauernfeind, however, that the school authorities would gladly arrange for a visit from one of us some future time.

The evening meeting was held in the large double room of the preaching place. As the Bible woman had told Miss Bauernfeind that the audience would probably consist largely of children, Miss Bauernfeind asked me to speak to the children. This I gladly did, especially since I had such a good interpreter, who has been assisting Miss

Erffmeyer in the Ushigome Sunday school for some time.

It is on occasions such as this that a foreigner realizes his limitations. These children, many of whom, perhaps had never heard anyone speak English, were amused at first as I spoke. This was perfectly natural. But Miss Suzuki got their attention every time and enlivened by words to the little hearers' great interest. After two or three times the novelty of my English seemed to wear off and the boys and girls listened very politely even to me. After we had finished, the children were given an opportunity to go home, and the grown people, of whom a goodly number had assembled in the rear of the room, were asked to come nearer. Strangely enough most of the children wanted to stay too, and so with a good audience of older children, men and women, some of whom the pastor said never came to meeting, Miss Bauernfeind spoke in Japanese on 2 Cor. 5: 1, 5. The attention was very good, and from the earnest way in which the people listened I believe that some seed must have fallen on good ground.

After our return to the hotel the Bible woman called again for a short while, and after her departure two of the hotel maids visited with Miss Bauernfeind for some time. One had been a Christian in her earlier life and seemed anxious to speak about religion, but the other one who was of a frivolous nature, warded off all serious attempts, and finally caused the earnest one to leave.

Japanese beds are not the most comfortable things imaginable to an American, but the interest in the newness of it all, together with a sofa pillow from home tucked in one's grip at the suggestion of friends who have been initiated, does much to relieve the situation.

The next morning broke beautiful and clear, and it was indeed inspiring, as we sat on the railing of the narrow veranda just outside of our room and looked into the pretty Japanese garden below, and off to the green fields beyond, and to hear the singing of a Christian hymn coming from the pastor's family worship in his home near by."

Many other fields were visited by the teachers of the school, in this way bringing a close contact between the Bible school and the work of the church in the country villages.

A CHANGE IN BIBLE COURSE.

As years passed by, it was found that the original plan of the Bible school course was too much to be completely covered in the short time of three years. Again, it was found that the agreement made between the parents of the students on Scholarship that they give three years' service to the church after finishing the work in the school, was not a wise one. In many cases the parents were non-Christians, and often began to make plans for their daughters to marry even while they were still in school, and the young woman had absolutely nothing to say in the matter. This caused many

a heart-ache to the young women who had promised to devote at least three years of service after graduating from the Bible school. One of the very best students in the first class of the school was forced to leave the school and get married after only one year's work because her elder brother so decided. Another one who had felt the definite call to service and had hoped to devote her whole life to Christian work, after about a year and a half of study, her elder brother demanded that she leave and marry because he had found a good opportunity for her. She was indeed a devoted Christian and cried as though her heart would break when she found that nothing would change her brother's idea about her going to Formosa to marry a man she had never seen. For a few years we heard from her frequently, and were glad to know that she did not lose her faith, but became a great help to the man she married, and was known as a blessing among the women of the place where she lived, but finally, nothing more came, and we can only keep on praying for her and her family, and hope to meet her in heaven when this earthly life is over.

The committee realized that it was not the wish of most of these girls to leave the work or the school, but that they were helpless in the matter, hence, after due consideration it was decided to lengthen the course of study to five years, and release the young woman from any obligation after she graduates, but ask her to do practical work during the

last three years of her school life. The course was changed and has been found most practical.

FIRST FURLOUGH.

In April, 1909, Miss Bauernfeind sailed for the United States for her first furlough after nearly nine years of service on the field. During her furlough year she visited and addressed many of the Conference Branch Conventions including Oregon, New York, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, Kansas, Ohio, Indiana, Dakota, Des Moines, Erie, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Iowa, and a number of Young People's Alliance Conventions. During her absence Miss Elmina Ranck acted as principal of the Bible School.

BRANCHING OUT.

Perhaps one of the most important matters decided upon while Miss Bauernfeind was in the States was that of enlarging the work of the Woman's Missionary Society in Japan by stationing single ladies in places outside of Tokyo. While there were many places which seemed to need such a worker, Osaka and Kobe district was considered the most needy, and Miss Erffmeyer was asked to begin the direct work of the Woman's Missionary Society in that part of Japan.

Miss Bauernfeind returned to Japan in the spring of 1910 and in the fall of the same year the change of stationing workers was effected. The following report of said change is taken from the

Missionary Messenger: "The 23rd day of September marks a new epoch in the history of the Woman's Missionary Society work in Japan; for while we had been informed some months ago that we were to "Divide up" and "Go into other cities also" the actual separation did not come until then.

After four years of faithful work in the Bible Woman's Training School, especially in the music department, we were indeed loath to let Miss Erffmeyer go from us, but knowing that it is best for the cause of Christ, we submit, and rejoice to know that the Woman's Missionary Society has taken this all-important step. It is not that we do not find enough to do right here in Tokyo, but because the work for women in Kobe and Osaka has been neglected, and we feel that there is imperative need for such work there as well as here in Tokyo, we are glad that God has opened the way for one of our number to take the initial step and carry on the work for women and children in those two large cities.

It may not be necessary, but I feel that the attention of the women throughout the church should be called to this new effort on the part of the Woman's Missionary Society, and that earnest prayer be made for the one who has gone to help our native sisters in their fight against wrong and discouragement in these places. We are hoping and praying for reinforcement. Miss Erffmeyer should have some one to help her, and there are other centers of our work where one or more single mission-

aries ought to be stationed, who could work with and through the Bible women, and thus encourage them and the native Christians who are, to say the least, still "Babes in Christ and need to be fed by some one who has never felt the power of heathenism. If our people could fully realize the need and the opportunity for this work, it would not be long before both money and missionaries would be forthcoming to enter these open doors."

In January, 1911, Miss Erffmeyer wrote the following: "Nearly four months have passed since I bade farewell to the brother and sister missionaries and other friends in Tokyo, to come to this new field of labor and a life laden with many new experiences. These have been four happy months filled with experiences of such a varied nature, which have made life most interesting, aside from being full of blessing. The first thing to be done after coming, was to search for a house which would be conveniently located for work in both Kobe and Osaka. A house built in true native style, the floors of which are covered with soft straw mats, and the rooms divided by paper doors which also shut us in from the outside world, was selected. So picture to yourself a quaint Japanese home made more comfortable for its inmates by the addition of a few pieces of furniture, some pictures and rugs, as the Woman's Missionary Society home in Kobe.

You ask whether I am lonesome. No, I have no time for that, for there has been so much to do in getting acquainted and in seeking openings for

work. While I miss the companionship of the Tokyo missionaries, yet I have a dear helper in Miss Suzuki, who came from Tokyo to live with me and be of help in every way. Just a day or two ago, word came saying that a brother and sister missionary from Tokyo are to take up work here in the near future. This is indeed news which brings joy to my heart, and I know that their coming will mean much to the work in these two cities, and then there is so much joy in anticipating the arrival of a dear helper to share the home and the pleasures of the work, that to be alone for a while is not unpleasant, since the blessings in store are of such abundant nature.

When in Tokyo my work consisted mostly in assisting in the work connected with the Bible Woman's Training School, while very little time could be given to evangelistic work. My work in Kobe and Osaka is entirely evangelistic, most of the time being given to the work among the women and children. I love this work for it brings one in direct contact with those whom we seek to lead to the Saviour and into the blessed experiences of the Christian life. There is much to be done in these two cities, and I find it is impossible to make use of every opportunity that presents itself to help those who are still without the fold, hence a new helper will find plenty to do from the beginning.

As this work is new it is not without trials and difficulties, but we know that He who has called us to do it, is able to help us over all the hard places,

and bring victory upon victory. I ask that you pray much for the work and the workers, that through the efforts put forth many be led to the Saviour and into the richer experiences in the Christian life."

A WELCOME COMPANION.

In November, 1911, Miss Erffmeyer's heart was made to rejoice by the coming of her sister, Miss Florence, who was sent by the Woman's Missionary Society as a second worker in the Kobe and Osaka districts. A graduate of North Western College, and with experience of teaching several years in the Flat Rock Orphan Home, she came well prepared for the work among children and women. We will let Miss Florence tell of her "First Impressions of Japan" as that gives a better idea of how a missionary feels when landing in a foreign country. "Very early on the morning of Friday, Nov. 3rd, I awoke and discovered that our good ship the "Manchuria" on which we had spent so many delightful days, had stopped. Looking out I saw many lights and I realized that at last the long sea voyage was ended, and that we were then in Yokohama harbor.

With gratitude to our Heavenly Father that the pleasant voyage had brought us in safety to Japan's shores, we arose at the coming of day to make ready to disembark. Away to our left was beautiful Mt. Fuji, with its snow-capped peak all aglow with the rosy tints of the morning.

After a joyful meeting with sister Edna, who came out in a launch to meet us, we went ashore, where we found the other missionaries waiting to greet us. After having our trunks and hand baggage inspected at the customs house, we proceeded to the station to take the train for Tokyo. Passing through the narrow wet streets, for the streets of Japan are very frequently wet because of the many sprinklings, I inquired where the side-walks were and was informed that there were none. I was soon able to appreciate the custom of the Japanese people, whereby they remove their shoes upon entering a house.

Several days were spent in Tokyo, becoming better acquainted with our work and workers there. On Saturday noon the girls of the Bible Woman's Training School tendered me a reception, when an elaborate feast was placed before me. I am not able to give the names of all there was to eat. The dishes containing soup and something which in appearance resembled custard, did not empty themselves very fast, while the raw fish could not tempt my appetite. Suffice it to say that most of my meal was made of rice, broiled fish, which indeed was delicious, sweet potatoes cooked with chestnuts, and tea. I tried to use the chop-sticks, but I soon began to realize that if I wanted anything to eat, I must overcome my pride, and fall back to my American manner of eating. A spoon and fork had very kindly and thoughtfully been provided for my use.

After the feast was over we were ready for some

fun. I had been trying to sit on my feet longer than was comfortable, so I was glad when chairs were brought for us foreigners. I could at least be comfortable as I watched and enjoyed the games which the girls played. How happy they all seemed! Even though I could not understand them, I very much enjoyed my first Japanese function.

November is the month of chrysanthemums, and everywhere we have seen so many of these beautiful flowers. While in Tokyo, I had the pleasure of going to the chrysanthemum "Show." I was deeply impressed with the wonderful art of the Japanese people. How skillful they are in training a single chrysanthemum plant to grow in any design they might wish! I also had the privilege of visiting the private garden of a wealthy Japanese gentleman. There we saw a single chrysanthemum plant bearing four hundred and eighty eight flowers.

The first Japanese service which I attended was a Sunday school, which indeed was very interesting to me. At this one Sunday school session there were present ten little girls with babies tied to their backs. How well the Japanese children sing! It was a great inspiration to hear them sing in their own tongue the beautiful Christmas song I learned in America, "Stille Nacht" or "Holy Night."

Returning from Sunday school, we passed a large temple, and entered, in order that I might see the people worship. What a vast difference

between the empty form of worship and that which we had just witnessed in the Sunday school!

After spending a few days in Tokyo, my sister and I came down on the railway to Kobe. What a beautiful ride it was, for we rode along the mountains for a great part of the way. Should I be consulted for suggestions for improvements in a Japanese train, I would certainly suggest a smoking car. At present there is no such compartment, consequently the air in a coach is very often blue, and, to one who has been accustomed to pure air, very oppressive. But what accomodations the Japanese do provide for the benefit of those who travel! When taking a long train ride, one need not provide his own lunch, for almost at any station along the way there are boys who sell for very reasonable prices, lunches of various kinds neatly put up in little wooden boxes. Or for a few cents one can buy a pot of tea and a cup.

Shortly after my arrival in Kobe, our congregation here, with its pastor, extended me a hearty welcome at a service, after which there was a short reception. We were treated to Japanese tea and cakes. Very fortunately for me it is etiquette in Japan, to take home with one all the cakes served to him which he does not care to eat.

I am now comfortably settled in my new home in Kobe. It is ideal in its location, for back of it are the pine clad mountains, and before, below the city, is the harbor where we see many boats of many sizes. The chilling dampness of today gives

me warning of the cold damp days ahead, of which Japan has so many. I am anxious to learn the Japanese language, so that I may be able to do more for the people who are also to be brought into the fold."

"THE SHREINER HOME."

The yearly increase of students in the Bible Woman's Training School caused the teachers much concern because there was not sufficient dormitory room to accomodate all the girls. Japanese houses in the neighborhood were rented, but this plan was found very unsatisfactory because of the peculiar rules and regulations that govern the conduct of young women in Japan. In January, 1912, Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Schreiner of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, gave two thousand dollars towards the erection of a dormitory for girls and young women. This gift was received with great joy, but there was no land upon which to erect such a building. Every effort was put forth to purchase or rent sufficient property for a new and large Japanese dormitory but everything seemed in vain. The hearts of the workers were sorrowful because they had long ago been told that no one would sell them any property, hence there was nothing to do but look about in the neighborhood for a place. Here too the outlook only became darker and darker, but just when all hope was about given up, the Lord Himself made provision, and one of the neighbors sent word to the janitor telling him that he would

now sell if we wished to buy. No one can possibly understand the great joy that came to the hearts of the workers, and no time was lost in making the purchase. The new lot or lots consisted of a long strip making an opening to a wider street, and in every way an excellent location for the further work of the school, joining the former lot at about the middle. The price was high as property had gone up a great deal, the cost being \$5400.00. Plans were immediately prepared for the dormitory, but the outlook for the future of the school being again on the increase, these lots seemed insufficient for a proper building, other than a three story structure. Since earthquakes are a frequent occurrence in Japan, a three story building would necessarily require a steel frame, and that would require far more money than was at our command. Just about the time when the plan for the new building was completed, and was to be mailed to America for approval, a very unexpected turn in events took place. Another man, who had always begrudged us the little property we had, seeing that we gained gradually, offered us his lots for sale. Since these lay along side the long narrow strip we had already purchased, we knew that God alone had given us the opportunity of gaining sufficient ground for the dormitory, and as Bishop Breyfogel was at the time in Japan, when told about it, and seeing the excellent location, agreed that, even though the erection of the dormitory be delayed, by all means the additional lots should be pur-

chased. Thus another six thousand dollars was needed for ground alone, and by the autumn of 1914, the Woman's Missionary Society was in possession of one of the most desirable locations in all Tokyo for the Bible Woman's Training school and dormitory. To the workers on the field it was nothing less than a miracle to see how God had so wonderfully provided the necessary property when from the very beginning the neighbors had declared they would never sell a foot of ground to these Christian workers. God still controls the hearts of men and can bring about changes of which they themselves never dream.

In the summer of 1915, the "Shreiner Home" was finally erected in true Japanese style. It is a two story building with twenty rooms, accomodating about fifty young women. There is a large dining room, kitchen, and a splendid Japanese bath connected with it, so that it makes a desirable home for the students during the five years' course of the Bible school.

PROGRESS AND VICTORY.

During Miss Bauernfeind's furlough, she laid special stress on the need of church buildings in Japan, so as to be better able to win people for Christ. At a meeting in Erie, Pa., the women in the congregation became especially interested in this subject, and volunteered to give one thousand dollars towards the erection of a Chapel in some needy place in Japan. This came very unexpect-

edly but was gratefully received, and Mukojima, the district in which work had been carried on for a number of years in a large Spinning Mill and surroundings, was chosen as the one where this church should be erected. Upon her return, immediate measures were taken to find a suitable lot for such a building, but here again, much time was wasted without any results. At different times, Mr. Fuji, the Manager of the Spinning Mill, had made remarks to the effect that the Company would be willing to help in securing a proper lot under certain conditions. After repeated consultations he finally said that the Company would be willing to rent a lot or lots, but could not think of selling. This he said could be done provided we would be willing to erect a kindergarten building in connection with the church so as to provide for the children of their employees. Finally a lot, right opposite the factory was voted for the use of the church and kindergarten building. There were several old houses on these lots, and we were obliged to wait for the removal of these before any progress could be made in erecting the building. Meanwhile the Company planned to erect another Mill and found that the lot voted for church and kindergarten would no longer be fit for such a purpose. At first this seemed like a disappointment, but when the new plot was presented to the workers it was found far superior to the first, especially since the Company offered to fill it up about twelve feet and prepare it free of expense to the Mission for a suit-

able building plot. Here again, the Hand of God was in evidence from the very beginning, and when the lot, consisting of three hundred tsubo, or one third of an acre, was finally ready for use, it was estimated to be worth not less than six thousand dollars. The church and kindergarten were erected during the years 1912 and 1913, being dedicated on the 3rd of July, 1913. It was at that time the prettiest and largest church of the Evangelical Association in Japan, and afforded a source of real joy and thanksgiving. The total cost of the two buildings was five thousand dollars. The two large kindergarten rooms are separated from the main auditorium by large sliding doors, so that the whole can be thrown into one large room in case of large gatherings. Then there is a Japanese department at the end consisting of four rooms and a kitchen. Here the kindergarten teachers and janitor live, and are always ready to help people who may come to the church or the kindergarten.

MISS RANCK'S FURLOUGH.

In the summer of 1912, Miss Elmina Ranck left for furlough, she being the second worker of the Woman's Missionary Society in Japan to take her furlough. She too was kept busy with visiting the different churches, and Conventions during her year of so-called rest, and became a great blessing to many of the sisters throughout the church.

KINDERGARTEN MISSIONARY.

In the year 1910, the Woman's Missionary Society decided to undertake kindergarten work in Japan and began to look about for a suitable teacher. At the same time a request came for an additional worker in the Bible Woman Training school, one especially fitted to take full charge of the music department as that became a very important factor in the evangelistic efforts of the school. The one for the kindergarten work was found in the person of Miss Natalie Berner, of Germany, and the one for the music department of the Bible school in Miss Edna Schweitzer, of Hillsboro, Kansas. We will let the Missionary Messenger tell us more about these two young women: "Two missionaries will sail for Japan with the S. S. Mongolia on the 30th of November, and will reach Japan in time to help celebrate Christmas in the Sunrise Kingdom.

Miss Natalie Berner of Cannstadt, Germany, has been in the country for some months, studying the English language. She is a graduate of a kindergarten school in Germany, has considerable experience as a kindergarten teacher, and is appointed to take charge of the kindergarten work in the Mukojima district of Tokyo, Japan. She is the first missionary sent out by the Woman's Missionary Society for this particular phase of missionary work, and the first missionary whose support is assigned to the children of the Mission

Bands. Miss Berner is in every way well adapted for the work she has been assigned, and we bespeak for her the earnest prayers of all our people and the undivided interest of our Mission Bands."

A MUSIC TEACHER FOR THE BIBLE SCHOOL.

"Miss Edna Schweitzer, of Hillsboro, Kansas, was appointed at the meeting of the General Board of Missions at Detroit, Mich., to take up work in the Bible Woman's Training School in Tokyo, Japan. Her special work will be teaching music, for which she is eminently qualified, being a graduate of the school of music of North-Western College at Naperville, Ills., and also of the Chicago Musical Conservatory. It is an absolute necessity that the Bible women have training in music in order to work successfully in the congregations to which they are assigned, hence this appointment is a timely one, and will greatly increase the efficiency of the training of the Bible women. We are sure this new addition to the Faculty of the Bible Woman's Training school will greatly increase the interest in the work in Japan. May God bless and keep both of these dear girls as they "go a-sailing" for their new home, and may they be happy in their work, while we are happy in the privilege of supporting them."

The following from the pen of Miss Schweitzer after arriving in Japan, may be of interest to the readers:

“You have heard of our departure from America in November, and no doubt you are anxious to learn of our safe arrival or as to whether we arrived at all.

After enjoying some weeks in the land of abundant fruits and flowers prior to Miss Berner’s arrival in California, we met at Santa Ana, where we spent a very pleasant Thanksgiving with the friends of our society. On that night we left for San Francisco, where, on the following day we were so kindly received by the Rev. Theo. Schauer and family and through whose kindness all necessary preparation was made for the voyage on the following day.

We set sail on the afternoon of Nov. 30th, and it was rather chilly for a few days, however, it became warmer as we were nearing Honolulu. Our captain, a very nice man, who, we were told, is the youngest and best captain on the Pacific, took the southern route, hence it remained warm until a day or two before we reached Japan.

We found Honolulu to be a very beautiful place. The trees and shrubbery were so luxuriant, but the heat was intense to one who so recently came from a cooler climate. Over half of the first class passengers remained here; this gave the missionaries on board, of which there were some twenty, an opportunity to become better acquainted. There were representatives of four different denominations, namely: Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Methodist and Evangelical. Some were returning from

furlough, others were going out for the first time. Some were enroute to China, others to Japan, yet all had one common purpose in view, "The spread of the Gospel." Bishop Hamilton of the Episcopal church, very ably conducted our Sunday services. The voyage was a pleasant one and we shall with pleasure look back to the pleasant days spent on the "Mongolia." We arrived in Yokohama December 18th, where we were met by a number from our mission in Tokyo, who welcomed us and escorted us to our new home in Tokyo. And we have found it a home in the full sense of the word; we have not had occasion to be lonely once, since our arrival.

During Christmas week our time was occupied attending Christmas festivals at the various Sunday schools of our churches in Tokyo. They were exceedingly interesting considering what we know of the language, hence our imaginative powers were hard at work between gestures used during various discourses. Though we did not understand, yet it seemed good to be here on Christmas and see for ourselves that so many people know of our Saviour's birth. It truly will be a pleasure to work with the women who are unassuming and also with the dear little children and tell them the story of the Christ.

After all, Japan is not so ancient as we had pictured it to be. Although their customs at first seemed very strange yet we have learned to admire many of them, especially the courtesy shown in business life as well as in social circles. Some of

these might well be observed in our American cities.’’

A SAD FAREWELL.

A great disappointment came to the workers in the Bible Woman’s Training School in the spring of 1913. Miss Cora E. Haller, who had been such an exceptional helper in the school was forced, because of ill health, to return to the States. For four years she had proved herself most efficient in almost every line of work, and it seemed hard to understand why such a capable missionary should be obliged to leave the field so soon. All the more so, because she herself dearly loved the work, and did all she could to regain her usual health, but of no avail.

HIKAWASHITA CHURCH.

In May 1913, great encouragement came to the workers when the little Chapel erected on the Hikawashita lot, was dedicated. Miss Bauernfeind wrote as follows:

‘‘Six years ago, it was the privilege of the Bible Woman’s Training School to open a Sunday school in a part of Tokyo where no religious services of any kind were being held. Faithfully, for six long years, this Sunday school has been carried on by the students and teachers of the school and never decreased in interest and attendance. The place is about forty minutes’ walk from the school, and every Sunday afternoon, rain or shine, hot or cold, the girls have joyfully carried on the work.

The interest, however, did not remain with the children only. Adults, mostly women, began to attend, so every Sunday afternoon after the Sunday school closed, a special meeting was held with these women with the result that three of them were converted, baptized and taken into the church. Then a request came for regular preaching services. Thursday evening was chosen for these meetings. There being a lack of preachers, it was impossible to have some one preach, but the janitor of our school, an earnest Spirit-filled man, took the responsibility and between us we did the best we could. It was a great joy to see the people listen to the simple Bible stories, and many of them became penitent, asking for special instructions in the Bible.

In the second year, one of the students from our Seminary in Tsukiji came over to help in the work, and it was then that the "First-fruits" began to be evident, and six grown-up people were baptized and taken into church fellowship. No one, who attended the service, can ever forget the joy and thanksgiving that filled the hearts of those who had prayed and worked for the salvation of these souls.

The house in which the meetings were held was a small Japanese room, about nine by eighteen feet, but being located right on the street line, it gave ample opportunity to give away thousands of tracts to passers by, so that a very large number of people have been reached through these meet-

ings. We hoped and prayed that God might open the way for us to erect a church in this place, and He has answered our prayers even before we expected it.

The owner of the ground on which the house was located in which we held our meetings, suddenly decided to move into the country, and asked us to rent the property. We had not thought of doing so just at present, but there being no other place in all that community so conveniently located for a church building, and the rent being very reasonable, it was rented and a church building erected. This little Chapel was dedicated last Saturday evening, the 10th of May, and we want you to rejoice with us because of this success. The number of Christians is small, but we believe that it will greatly increase now that we have a convenient and comfortable building in which to hold our services.

The ground is large enough for a kindergarten building, and we hope soon to have one erected, so that definite work among the children can be carried on in that vicinity.

This is the first direct result of the Evangelistic work carried on by the Bible Woman's Training school, but we hope very soon to report another. Nor do we expect these two to be the last, but only the beginning of still greater work for the Master."

KOBE AND OSAKA.

We now turn our faces and minds towards the work in Kobe and Osaka under the able leadership of Miss Edna Erffmeyer the past three years. The work among the Kobe women increased in interest, and a desire to have a proper church building and a kindergarten became very strong, but it was in Osaka, that a special opportunity for work presented itself. Our missionaries, Superintendent Umbreit and Miss Erffmeyer learned that the city of Osaka was willing to rent sufficient ground for a kindergarten and church building at a very low figure in a suburb called Chikko. They were not slow in investigating, and having learned all the facts, presented them to the Mission Committee. All were agreed that such an opportunity should not be passed by, and the consequence was that a large tract of ground was rented for missionary work. Plans and specifications for a church, parsonage, kindergarten, and a missionary home were soon prepared and sent to the Board for approval. Building operations were begun and the church, parsonage, and missionary home were completed before Miss Erffmeyer went home on her first furlough in 1913. The following from the pen of Miss Erffmeyer will give fuller information:

“Believing that the dear friends in the homeland will be glad to hear of the new kindergarten in Chikko, Osaka, it is with joy that I tell you of its successful opening on May 1st.

The people of Chikko had been waiting for the opening, and for several weeks previous came to make application for entrance, a number paying the entrance and tuition fees early, so that they would feel confident of being enrolled. We provided accomodations first for thirty children, but so many more came to ask for admission that we enlarged the number to fifty. We have now fifty children enrolled. There are others who desire to enter, but at the present we cannot accomodate more than fifty.

On May 1st, the day of the opening, in spite of heavy rains, we were greeted by children and parents, about one hundred in number, who were enthusiastic over the project, and seemed most as happy as we over the good prospects. The people are most interested and sympathetic, and we feel that with their sympathy and interest the work will grow and be a blessing. At the present we are using the new church building for a kindergarten, but expect to have our own building and play-ground completed some time next fall.

As in the beginning of all work, so in this, we had more than one difficulty to overcome, but the Lord helped us, and the results are that we have a work started, the aim of which will not be only the giving of diplomas, but the leading of innocent lives into the Kingdom of God. Not only will the children be brought into the fold, but, as the prophet says "A little child shall lead them,"

so we pray that many parents may be won to Christ through the work of the kindergarten.

The Chikko Sunday school has more than doubled, and we have been pleased to see the interest taken by the parents in the Sunday school as well as in the kindergarten. Since we have a fine new church building and will soon have one for the kindergarten, we feel that the work in Chikko ought to prosper.

There is another building at this place in which you have a share and in which we are much interested, namely, the Woman's Missionary Society home for lady missionaries. Aside from a few finishing touches of the painter's brush, this house is completed and is comfortable. We, as your representatives, expect to move into it next week, and will be glad to receive any of the friends interested in the work. It will be so much better to live in Osaka near to most of the work, for so much energy and time in traveling about will be saved. We feel very grateful that the erection of a home for the workers has been possible, and pray that the Lord will abundantly bless all those who have had a share in not only the building of a home, but also in the work of the kindergarten. The prospects are bright, but to carry on this important work much prayer is necessary, so we ask you to pray with us that souls may be saved through the instrumentality of the kindergarten."

ANOTHER FURLOUGH.

In July, 1913, Miss Edna Erffmeyer left Japan for her first furlough, and in the autumn, when Miss Ranck returned from her furlough she was stationed to Chikko to be associated with Miss Florence Erffmeyer in the work there during the absence of Miss E. Erffmeyer. It was during this year that the work at Sangenya was started in the form of a Sunday school, and later developed into the prosperous kindergarten.

Miss Erffmeyer was kept unusually busy during her furlough year as she was given the privilege and the opportunity to collect moneys for the purchase of an additional lot for the Bible Woman's Training School. In this she succeeded admirably well, and her efforts were greatly appreciated.

MUKOJIMA KINDERGARTEN AND NURSERY.

In October, 1913, the kindergarten in Mukojima was opened. Since this was to be arranged to accomodate three different classes of children it was no easy task, and much time was spent in consultation with the officers of the Spinning Mill so as to come to a definite agreement as to rules and regulations for the three classes. It was finally decided that the first class should be asked to pay a tuition of one Yen per month; the second class fifty Sen a month, and the third or poorest children only a nominal sum of twenty-five

Sen a month. The third class needed the most attention as many of them would come from six in the morning, remaining until six in the evening. This would necessitate a rest room, bedding, lunches both in the forenoon and afternoon, and yet it was thought that it was the most necessary work of all, hence begun.

That this work became a tremendous job, and one which turned out to be almost a burden, to those who had charge of it, can be readily understood. With large numbers of children for each class, and all to be taken care of in very much the same rooms during the day was considered an impossibility after five years of experiment. Then too, the teaching force was not adequate to carry it on successfully, hence plans for an additional wing to be erected as the Nursery, where the youngest and poorest children could be properly cared for, were agreed upon by the officers of the Spinning Mill and the missionaries in charge. The Woman's Missionary Society appropriated one thousand dollars for this purpose, but by the time building operations could be begun, prices had gone up to such an extent that we were seven hundred and fifty dollars short. After much thought and prayer the finances were talked over with the Manager of the Mill, and he promised to use his influence to get the Company to make up the deficit. This was done and the Nursery erected at a cost of seventeen hundred and fifty dollars.

A NEW STATION.

In the autumn of 1914, Miss Erffmeyer returned from her furlough in the United States and again took up her work in Kobe and Osaka. This relieved Miss Ranck from the work in Osaka, and since steps had already been taken to send a lady missionary to Koriyama in Fukushima-ken about 120 miles north of Tokyo, it was not long before Miss Ranck was ready for work in that large and growing city. No missionary was living in the city, and it meant a great deal for a single woman to begin the work. A small, inconvenient Japanese house was rented at five dollars a month in the hope of finding something better before long. For years the Mission had a native pastor and occasionally a Bible woman at work in this city, but they stood alone and found it most difficult to do really efficient service. With the stationing of Miss Ranck the work took on a new form, and for the past four years has made great progress. Koriyama being a growing city it was impossible to find anything better for a home, and Miss Ranck was obliged to continue living in the first house rented until the autumn of 1918, when the new foreign built home was completed. With the assistance of a Bible woman in Koriyama, Sukagawa, and Nihonmatsu, a large number of Sunday schools have been opened under the direction of Miss Ranck and the work is in a most excellent condition.

REINFORCEMENT FOR THE BIBLE WOMAN'S TRAINING SCHOOL.

After Miss Haller's return to the States, Miss Bauernfeind and Miss Schweitzer had the whole work of the school and it was found necessary to reinforce the missionary teachers.

In the autumn of 1913, it was decided by the Woman's Missionary Society Board that an additional worker should be sent to the Bible school. After some months of searching, Miss Laura J. Mauk of Dover, Oklahoma, was appointed as assistant principal of the school. She arrived in Japan in December, 1914. A college graduate, with several years of experience as High school teacher, a deaconess training and a short Bible course in the Moody Institute fitted her most thoroughly for service in the Bible school. From the very beginning she made herself useful in the school and became intimately acquainted with all the details of the work within a very brief period.

A NEW STEP.

Ever since the beginning of missionary work in Japan, meetings for women had been carried on in every congregation. This seemed a necessity as the women could not well attend the regular church services because a Japanese house cannot be locked up and left alone, but some one must always be at home, and it falls to the lot of the wife and mother to keep watch as a rule. Then too, the Japanese woman likes to attend a

meeting for women only, and so these gatherings are largely attended, and much good is done through them.

The meetings for women in the Koishikawa congregation were well attended, and the women began to long for some definite work of their own. In talking with them about what they might undertake, the organizing of a Woman's Missionary Society Auxiliary was suggested, and they seemed very enthusiastic over it. The Constitution of the Woman's Missionary Society was translated and presented, and on May 6th, 1915, the first Society was organized with twelve charter members. Some apprehended difficulty because of a regular sum of money to be contributed each month, but it was soon found that they were glad for an opportunity of paying regularly, and while many of them have to make sacrifices in order to keep up their monthly contributions they seem to rejoice at the privilege of doing it. Formerly they could give nothing or a cent or two because it was always a free-will offering, but now to decide on a regular sum and pay it monthly seems to come as readily and cheerfully as their smaller contributions heretofore.

A NEW OPPORTUNITY.

With the evangelistic work done by the students of the school, especially by calling in the homes of the people, it was found that the care of little girls was one way in which to help poor

parents, and afforded an excellent opportunity of winning people for Christ. It was not seldom that the workers were informed of a poor little innocent girl being sold for a small sum in order to provide food and clothing for the other members of the family, or in some cases, to provide the necessary money by which her elder brother might go to school. That the end of all such children is only misery and shame need not be told. Just how to help them was a problem, but quite unpremeditated the way opened for definite work in this line.

In the spring of 1910, one of the poorest members of the Koishikawa congregation, while not appealing for help, told the teachers of the Bible school his predicament in caring for his three motherless little girls. Had he not been a Christian he would likely have sold the oldest girl and thus had a way of supporting the other two for a while at least, but he loved his little ones, and wanted to bring them up for Jesus. He was only a poor basket maker, and by the time he made enough to pay his rent and the monthly moneys needed to feed the youngest child which had been entrusted to a wet nurse because her mother died at the birth of this daughter, he found he did not have sufficient money left to properly feed and clothe the other two girls. It was finally agreed that the two little girls, nine and seven years respectively, be sheltered with the students in the Bible school dormitory where they would be fed

and the father would continue to provide clothing only. Both of the little girls had been underfed and were in a weak physical condition. The older one soon gained strength and became real well, but the younger one was only permitted to spend two months with us before she was taken to her heavenly home. So much of heaven had entered into her young soul during that short period of her life that she told those surrounding her the day before she passed away that she was going to heaven tomorrow. No one believed it, but the next day she passed away into the land where she is at rest. The older one went through grammar school, entered the Bible school and is now a beautiful young woman, longing to serve her Master and win souls for Eternal life.

This was the beginning of a work which has come to mean so much to the missionary work in Japan, and also to those who are receiving help in this way.

After the additional lot was purchased for the Bible school, two of the old houses on it were used for this work, and so many applied that we were unable to accommodate all who wished to enter. No one, who does not know conditions in Japan, and especially the utter indifference towards poor little girls, and the danger of having them land in places which are worse than death, can fully appreciate what a joy it is to the workers to see an opportunity of saving both body and soul of these forsaken little ones.

MISS BAUERNFEIND'S SECOND FURLough.

In April 1916, Miss Bauernfeind once more turned her face towards her own homeland, and for ten months traveled through different conferences, visiting local churches, attending conventions and using every possible opportunity to present the work in which she is interested. Her one great aim was to gather money to erect a suitable church building on the premises of the Bible school so that the growing congregation there might be able to worship freely in a more convenient building. She was also asked by the Board of Missions to collect for the Shitaya church building which was to be erected, and for a missionary home in Koriyama. In other words she had the task of gathering twenty thousand dollars in order to be able to carry out the plan for the three buildings just mentioned. It being war time many discouragements came to her from those who thought it was utterly impossible to gather such a sum of money, but her faith and courage never wavered, and in eight months' time she had the splendid sum of twenty-four thousand dollars in cash and pledges to report to the Board of Missions. That large sums were given unasked for brought special joy to Miss Bauernfeind as she believes in spontaneous giving to the Lord.

There was another reason for great thanksgiving on the part of Miss Bauernfeind and that

was, that during her absence the work of the Bible school was carried on without any special trouble or loss under the efficient oversight of Miss Mauk the assistant principal. Although Miss Mauk had been in Japan only a little over a year, she had left no stone unturned to gain a proper insight into the workings of the school, so that she was able to keep the machinery running smoothly during the principal's absence. An absence of ten months from the school and all the work connected therewith gave the principal a chance to view it from all angles and to realize the defects as well as its good points. It was because of this fact that the faculty members decided to make some new arrangements for the management of the school. No efficient male teacher had ever been employed for regular work in the school. Different native pastors had been helping in teaching, but the need for one well prepared male teacher who could and would give his full time to the school, was greatly felt. In this, however, the faculty felt it wise to go slowly, and no definite action was taken until December 1918.

A NEW WORKER FOR KORIYAMA.

Miss Ranck had lived alone in Koriyama for several years, and the Board was anxious to give her an associate, but found it difficult to find a suitable person. Miss Kathryn Schirmer, who had been a student volunteer while at North-Western College, longed for some definite missionary work,

and accepted the appointment to Koriyama for evangelistic work with great joy. She arrived in Japan in September, 1917, and after studying the language one year, moved to Koriyama in September, 1918, where she is making herself useful in the extensive evangelistic field of labor.

AN ADDITIONAL KINDERGARTEN MISSIONARY.

According to the action taken by the Woman's Missionary Society Board, in 1916, that an additional kindergarten missionary be secured and sent to Japan in 1917, Miss Lois Kramer of Cleveland, Ohio, was selected and appointed for the work. She was a graduate from the kindergarten training school, of Cleveland, in 1911. While in training there, she enjoyed especially the practical work with foreign children. For six years before coming to Japan she taught in the Cleveland Public School for the Deaf, her work having been in the kindergarten and the first primary grade. She arrived in Japan in September, 1917, and took up the study of the language at once, and gradually began taking charge of several kindergartens in Tokyo.

FURLOUGH OF MISS FLORENCE ERFFMEYER.

After six years of faithful service Miss Florence Erffmeyer left Japan for her first furlough in June 1917. To her was given the privilege of

collecting funds with which to erect a permanent kindergarten building in Sangenya, Osaka. For a number of years that work had been carried on in a rented building, and the kindergarten, becoming very prosperous under the supervision of Miss Edna Erffmeyer, it was deemed wise, by the Mission Council, to purchase land and erect a building which could at the same time be used for regular church services. Upon the Board's approval of this project, Miss F. Erffmeyer collected the funds necessary for this purpose.

1918 EVENTS.

KOISHIKAWA CHURCH AND KINDERGARTEN.

Soon after Miss Bauernfeind's return from furlough in the spring of 1917, the erection of the Koishikawa church was begun, but a typhoon, on the last of September, destroyed the building completely; hence it was necessary to begin once more and the building was finally completed in May, 1918. It is a beautiful structure, conveniently arranged for the work of the congregation and the Bible school, and proves itself most satisfactory.

AISENRYO.

(Needy Girls' Home.)

Because of the erection of this church building it was necessary to remove the old Japanese houses that had served as homes for the little orphan and needy girls for several years. Not

knowing just what to do under the circumstances, two houses in the neighborhood were rented and the girls sheltered in these for about a year. That the joy of carrying on this work was greatly dampened because of the complaint coming from the students in the neighboring boarding houses, on account of the lively spirit manifested by the little folks can be easily imagined. Thinking that the place was too crowded a number of the older girls were taken into the Bible school dormitory, but this too was far from satisfactory. It was during this time of unrest and indecision that the faculty of the school heard of a house and lot for sale in the immediate neighborhood, and upon investigation it was found to be a very appropriate place for a home for these girls, hence a contract was drawn up, the plan presented to the Executive Board which consented to the purchase of said property at the cost of \$12,600.00. It would not be right were we not to record the fact that this project was one of simple faith in God's providing care for those who trust Him fully. No such thought as purchasing a permanent place at the present had ever entered the minds of the members of the faculty, but He who knew the needs made provision even before prayer was made directly.

Over forty helpless, needy girls are at present cared for by this department, and souls are being saved for the Master. Surely the Friend of children is showing His approbation of this work.

KORIYAMA MISSIONARY HOME.

The missionary home in Koriyama, while planned to be erected during the year 1917, had to be postponed again because of the re-arranging of the city streets. This necessitated Miss Ranck's living in the poor little Japanese house for another cold winter, but the year 1918 saw the erection of the missionary home completed, and it will be a spot in which the workers can withdraw from the world and have fellowship with Him who has promised to be with His workers to the end of the world.

SHITAYA CHURCH AND KINDERGARTEN.

While it was hoped to erect this church building earlier, various matters occurred which delayed the plan and it was not begun until late in the autumn of 1918. The work was then pressed to early completion.

BRANCH ORGANIZATION OF THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

While there had been one local Auxiliary for three years, it was not until the latter half of 1917 and the first half of 1918 that six other auxiliaries were added, and the idea of organizing a Branch followed immediately. A meeting of all the members of the auxiliaries was called on June 27th, 1918, and after fully discussing the advisability of organizing a Conference Branch, offi-

cers were elected, and great joy was manifested because of the new opportunities that would be given to the women of Japan to have a real live part in the work their sisters in America were carrying on.

AND STILL ANOTHER KINDERGARTEN MISSIONARY.

It was a great surprise to the missionaries on the field when word came that Miss Sarah Kramer, sister of Miss Lois Kramer, was coming to join the kindergarten missionaries in September 1918. Needless to say that there was great joy on the part of all the missionaries to welcome one more efficient worker to their number.

MISS SCHWEITZER'S FURLOUGH.

On December 29th, 1918, Miss Schweitzer, after six years of faithful and efficient work as music Director in the Bible school, sailed for her much needed and well deserved furlough leaving the faculty with only two members to carry on the tremendous work of the Bible school and all its branches.

1919 EVENTS.

Because of the Japan Annual Conference meeting in March, causing the pastors to be away from their field of labor for some time, it was thought advisable to change the time of graduation of the Bible school to June, and plan to have

the Special Bible Convention as well as the Annual Woman's Missionary Society meeting connected with it. The plan was tried and found most successful. Commencement day was June 20th, followed by the Worker's Convention, and this in turn was followed by the first regular Woman's Missionary Society Convention. Twenty-three delegates attended this convention, and the lively discussions that took place for the two days of the convention revealed the latent powers in the hearts of the Japanese women. Their desire to be used of God in spreading His Word and bringing about the coming of His Kingdom upon earth was manifested in the addresses, prayers and private talks.

Miss Elmina Ranck, having completed her second term of service left for America in July for a well-earned furlough. She had been living alone in Koriyama the greater part of this second term, but could leave the work in the hands of Miss Schirmer who had been in the service for nearly two years.

It being very hard to rent homes for the missionaries, the Board asked that a proper lot be purchased upon which a home for the kindergarten missionaries be erected. To say that it took months to find a suitable lot, is not telling how much real hard work was connected with it, but in July a lot located in Koishikawa, not so very far from the Bible school, was purchased. The lot consists of 165 Tsubo, and the price paid for

the same was \$5950.00. In September the contract for the house was let, and it is nearly completed, giving the kindergarten missionaries a pleasant home in which they can rest and recuperate when not at work.

5950.00